

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

REFS: (A) STATE 231823; (B) BONN 15396;

(C) USEC 8668

SUMMARY. FRG SAYS THE NOVEMBER 1973 LANGUAGE IS BEING REVIEWED, BUT THAT REVIEW MAY AMOUNT TO NOTHING. EC PREPARED TO MEET ON GENERAL COMMITTEE LEVEL IF ARABS INSIST AND IF PLO PARTICIPATION PROBLEM CAN BE SOLVED. GENSCHER PROPOSED WIDENING DIALOGUE AT VENICE BUT ABANDONED THE IDEA IN FACE OF OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

L. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL (A), WE CHECKED WITH THE FONOFF TO CONFIRM WHAT IT (GABLENTZ) HAD TOLD US ON SEPTEMBER 18 (REFTEL B) RE NOVEMBER 1973 LANGUAGE, THE NEXT STEP IN THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, AND PUTTING CONFIDENTIAL

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POLITICAL CONTENT INTO THE DIALOGUE.

2. NOVEMBER 1973 LANGUAGE: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED AT VENICE THAT THE NOVEMBER 1973 LANGUAGE IS STILL VALID. THEY DIRECTED THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS TO REVIEW IT IN LIGHT OF THE VARIOUS BILATERAL STATEMENTS MADE BY EC MEMBER STATES IN CONJUNCTION WITH INDIVIDUAL ARAB STATES SINCE 1973, SOME OF WHICH HAVE GONE FURTHER TOWARD MEETING ARAB DESIRES THAN THE 1973 LANGUAGE DID. GABLENTZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DID NOT GIVE THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS ANY MANDATE TO ALTER THE NOVEMBER 1973 LANGUAGE IN THE DIRECTION OF ACCOMMODATING THE PLO. NOR DID THEY DECIDE TO REISSUE THE LANGUAGE OR ISSUE NEW LANGUAGE. GABLENTZ REPORTED THAT THE ISRAELIS HAVE INFORMALLY APPROACHED SEVERAL EC GOVERNMENTS (INCLUDING THE FRG) SINCE VENICE TO EXPRESS CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE.

GABLENTZ SUMMED UP THE PRESENT STATE OF PLAY BY SAYING THAT IT IS NATURAL THAT THE EC MEMBERS ARE LOOKING INTO THE PRESENT-DAY APPLICABILITY OF LANGUAGE DRAFTED ALMOST TWO YEARS AGO. IF THE EC DECIDES TO DO ANYTHING, HE SAID IT WILL BE DONE IN A NON-SPECTACULAR FASHION.

3. NEXT STEP IN DIALOGUE: AS REPORTED IN BOTH REFTELS (B) AND (C), THE BALL IS IN THE ARAB COURT AS FAR AS SCHEDULING THE NEXT MEETING. HOWEVER, GABLENTZ TOLD US AGAIN THAT, WHILE THE EC PREFERS TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ON THE EXPERT LEVEL, IT IS PREPARED TO ADVANCE TO THE GENERAL COMMITTEE LEVEL IF THE ARABS PROPOSE DOING SO. THE ONLY OBSTACLE (A MAJOR ONE) IS RESOLUTION OF THE PLO PARTICIPATION ISSUE. HERE, GABLENTZ REPORTS THAT THERE IS NO DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE EC TO CHANGE THE PRESENT FORMULA IN FAVOR OF THE PLO.

4. INTERJECTION OF POLITICAL CONTENT: AS REPORTED REFTEL (B), FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER PROPOSED AT VENICE THAT THE DIALOGUE BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE SUCH POLITICAL TOPICS AS THE WESTERN INTERPRETATION OF CSCE. THIS PROPOSAL RECEIVED AN UNFAVORABLE REACTION FROM THE OTHER

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MINISTERS, SO GENSCHER HAS DROPPED IT. THE FONOFF HAS NOT TOLD US THAT GENSCHER TOOK THIS INITIATIVE IN RESPONSE TO ARAB PRESSURE. THIS PRESSURE MAY HAVE BEEN A FACTOR. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT AS GREAT A FACTOR WAS THE FRG'S CONTINUAL EFFORT TOWARD MORE MEANINGFUL EUROPEAN CONSULTATION AND EVENTUAL UNION.
HILLENBRAND

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